Library

URBAN DISTRICT OF HUNSTANTON

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH

For The

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960

COUNCIL OFFICES,
HUNSTANTON,
NORFOLK.

"Waverley" ,
12, Lincoln Street,
Hunstanton.

Telephone : Hunstanton 24.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Hunstanton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1960.

I am thankful to be able to say that the health of the District during the time under review has been excellent and continues to remain so.

This will be the last occasion on which I shall have the honour of presenting a report to the Council and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all those who have served with me and who have afforded me assistance.

In particular I would thank the Chairmen of the Urban District Council for their consideration and cooperation shown me during my thirty seven years service as Medical Officer of Health to the Council.

At all times I have had the kind and able assistance of Mr. W.H. Behn, Clerk of the Council, and I wish to express my thanks to him for his help.

The Council's Public Health Inspector, Mr. W.L.C. Proud, is doing prodigies of work and I wish to thank him for his kind assistance during my illness.

I feel sure that my successor will have the cooperation and assistance which I have enjoyed and I trust that the health of the District will always remain good.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W.E.H. BULL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch.,Cantab.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29442357

To the Chairman and Members of the
Hunstanton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT, 1960.

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (including 434 acres of foreshore) =	1498 Acres.
Registrar General's Estimate of population :	5320.
Estimated number of Americans living in the Urban District and included in the above number :	1305.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books :	1501.
Rateable value :	£79,841.
Sum represented by a penny rate :	£321.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	163	92	71
Illegitimate.	5	3	2
	168	95	73

Crude Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population. 31.2

Area comparability Factor - Births : 0.89

Corrected birth rate :27.7

STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate.	1	-	1
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	169	95	74

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 5.9

DEATHS			
Deaths from all causes.	58	29	29

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population -10.9

Area comparability Factor - Deaths : 0.95

Corrected death rate :10.4

INFANT DEATHS

	Total.	M.	F.
Under 1 year of Age.			
Legitimate.	4	4	-
Illegitimate.	4	4	-
Under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate.	4	4	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Under 1 week of age.			
Legitimate.	4	4	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate. per 1,000 live births. 23.7

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
Cancer (all ages)	10	5	5

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year. NONE.

Any causes of sickness of invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year; any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health; or any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has excercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults. NONE.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. One part-time Medical Officer of Health; one whole-time Public Health Inspector and Two District Nurses.

In addition to the normal duties of the office the Public Health Inspector has additional duties such as responsibility for the collection and disposal of refuse, sea front cleansing, cleaning and maintenance of public conveniences, maintenance of Council houses and duties under the Petroleum Acts.

2. (a)	Laboratory Facilities :	None other than Medical Research Council Laboratory at the Norwich City Isolation Hospital.
(b)	Ambulance Facilities :	For non-infectious and accident cases a Daimler Motor Ambulance is provided by a local Committee of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society, conjointly for use in the District. It is worked by a Local Committee and is self-supporting as far as possible. (After 1/5/48 taken over by the Norfolk County Council, but run for them by the Committee referred to above).
(c)	Nursing in the home :	The District Nurses undertake this.
(d)	Treatment Centres and Clinics, including clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation :	This work is undertaken at the King's Lynn Hospital.
(e)	Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.	None, other than the King's Lynn Hospital.

SECTION C. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1960.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery.	2	None	None

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality During 1960.

Age Period.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 :	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. STAFF

Following the resignation of Mr. A.C. Gittens on 23rd January, 1960, the post of Public Health Inspector to the Council was vacant until 25th April, 1960 when Mr. W.L.C. Proud commenced duties.

The frequent changes in personnel over the last two years and the resultant periods during which the Council has been without a Public Health Inspector has naturally resulted in a considerable reduction in the amount of Public Health work carried out, particularly in routine inspection of houses and food premises.

Meat and Food inspection was carried out by an Inspector of the Docking Rural District Council when the Council had no Public Health Inspector, other duties of a technical character in connection with refuse collection and disposal, public conveniences and housing maintenance were carried out by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Referring to my last Annual Report on this subject, during the past twelve months the Council have made arrangements for lengths of plastic (P.V.C.) pipe to be placed on the sea bed to ascertain their suitability for use in connection with outfall, and furthermore have authorised the Engineers to carry out float tests to find out the tidal currents. It is understood that these float tests are to be carried out in the early part of 1961.

The existing sewage works were operated as efficiently as possible during the year and fortunately no serious troubles were experienced.

The question of relaying the sewer at South Beach Road is tied up with the provision of new sewage disposal works and until this question is resolved the sewer is being maintained in as efficient working order as is possible.

All premises within the Urban District, with the exception of nine isolated properties which have either septic tank or cesspool drainage, are provided with proper water closets and are connected to the sewerage system.

Two cesspools required attention during the year.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year and more frequent collections were made during the summer months from hotels and food and business premises. Collection was continued as last year with an 18 cu.yd. dual-tip rear loading vehicle in constant use and manned by a driver-loader and three loaders. A 7 cu.yd. side -loading vehicle, manned by two men, was also used throughout the summer months to maintain the service.

Disposal continued at Thornham Tip in the Docking Rural District.

Eighty-eight inspections were made in connection with the storage, collection and disposal of refuse. Informal action secured the removal of accumulations of refuse and provision of satisfactory storage facilities at eleven premises.

4. WATER SUPPLY

The amount of water pumped during 1960 was 127,089,000 gallons, compared with 131,636,000 gallons in 1959. The amount per month varied from a peak of 15,569,000 gallons in June compared with 14,631,000 gallons in August 1959, to a minimum of 6,933,000 gallons in December compared with 8,229,000 gallons in March, 1959.

Of the 127,089,000 gallons pumped, 24,681,400 gallons were supplied to the Docking Rural District, the consumption for the Hunstanton Urban District being 102,407,600 gallons, compared with 106,744,400 gallons in 1959.

The Council ceased to supply water to the Docking Rural District on the 30th September, 1960, that Authority having laid a new main to supplement the supply to the Heacham area.

Thirteen samples of water were submitted by the Water Engineer for bacteriological examination during the year, the results being as shown in the following summary :-

Before or After Chlorination.	No. of samples taken.	RESULTS			
		"Highly satisfactory".	"Satisfactory".	"Suspicious".	"Unsatisfactory".
Before	7	-	2	-	5
After	6	1	5	-	-

As will be seen from these results, the samples of water taken after chlorination and as supplied to the general public were bacteriologically satisfactory.

The analyst's opinion on the last sample of water submitted for chemical analysis was as follows :-

"This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis as a whole shows no evidence of pollution. The total hardness is normal for East Anglian waters, being about 20° Clark, of which approximately three-quarters is temporary. The reaction is practically neutral and the free carbon dioxide is moderately low so that this water would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. Apart from a trace of iron other metals such as lead and copper are absent from the sample. The clarity, odour and taste are very satisfactory and in our opinion this water is very suitable for drinking and general purposes. The detailed mineral analysis does not disclose any unusual features".

The water supply is amply sufficient to meet the needs of the district.

5. NUISANCES

Sixty inspections were made to investigate and secure the abatement of nuisances under the relevant sections of the Public Health Act, 1936.

As a result of informal action eighteen nuisances were abated, in no case was it necessary to take formal action.

6. RODENT CONTROL.

The figures relating to rodent control work are given in the following table which is on the lines of the return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It should be noted that the Ministry has relinquished its duties to a large extent in connection with rodent control and it is now the Local Authority's sole responsibility to enforce the eradication of rodents from buildings and lands and to continue the treatment of sewers against rats.

Type of Property.

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Others, incl. Business Premises.	Agricultural.	Total.
No. of properties inspected as a result of :-					
(a) notification	2	37	16	2	57
(b) survey	2	-	-	1	3
(c) otherwise	4	139	58	-	201
	8	176	74	3	261
Total inspections carried out.	30	390	107	22	549
No. of properties found to be infested by :-					
(a) Rats Major	2	6	3	1	12
Minor	2	21	9	2	34
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	2	-	-	2
	4	29	12	3	48
No. of properties treated by L. A.	4	29	12	2	47
Total treatments carried out.	4	35	14	3	56

Sewer treatments were carried out in the early summer and late autumn, no extensive or heavy infestation of sewers was found.

7. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Five sites were licensed by the Council for use as camping sites, in addition the Council operated a site at the South Beach. All caravans stationed were for occupation during the summer months only.

A survey was made of all sites during August Bank Holiday week and it was found that there were 1062 caravans stationed, in addition there were 63 tents pitched on a temporary, unlicensed site.

Fifty eight visits were made during the year in connection with the control of moveable dwellings and camping sites.

With the coming into operation in October of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 the Council adopted a revised and extended list of conditions to be observed by licensees of caravan sites.

8. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Council has provided and maintains an open air swimming pool, this is filled with sea water which is continuously filtered and chlorinated by mechanical means.

9. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council has provided and maintains seven public conveniences, at two of these "Wash and Brush-Up" facilities are available during the summer season and other two have hand rinse facilities.

In addition, there are three blocks of conveniences, all with wash hand basins, on the Council's caravan site.

At the end of the year the main block of conveniences, adjoining the bathing pool, which had become seriously structurally defective, was being demolished in preparation for the erection of a new block with more accommodation on the site.

The conveniences were inspected regularly and frequently so that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and repair could be maintained.

10. FACTORIES

There is no heavy industrial development within the district, most of the factories situate in the district being either engaged in motor vehicle repairs or connected with the building industry.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 are given in tabular form as an annex to this report, as requested by the Minister of Labour.

11. HOUSING

(a) General.

Forty three inspections were made of houses in disrepair, nine houses were repaired as a result of informal action.

Nine visits were made to unfit houses in respect of which action is to be taken.

No case of statutory overcrowding was found.

(b) Improvement Grants.

"Standard Grants" were paid in respect of works of improvement carried out at three houses during the year and the Council approved the making of "Discretionery Grants" in respect of proposed improvement works at two houses.

Thirty four visits were made in connection with Improvement Grants.

(c) New Houses.

Sixty five new houses were completed by private enterprise during the year, of these about forty were intended primarily for letting to United States Air Force personnel. A further nine houses were under construction at the end of the year.

(d) Council Houses.

The Council has provided 157 dwellings, all constructed since 1945, and owns a further eight houses.

The dwellings provided to meet the general housing needs of the district comprise :-

(a) 62 x 3 bedroom houses.
(b) 62 x 2 bedroom houses.
(c) 5 x 2 bedroom bungalows.
(d) 12 x 1 bedroom bungalows.
(e) 4 x 2 bedroom flats.
(f) 12 x 1 bedroom flats.

the bungalows and flats at (c) and (d), and eight of the flats at (f) are intended principally for occupation by aged persons.

Five hundred and nine visits were made to Council houses and housing estates in connection with repair and maintenance, alterations and improvement works, tenancy matters and management.

During the year the water service pipes to the twelve houses in Hamon Close were altered, to afford more protection from frost, and the Council resolved to replace the existing combination ranges in these same houses with open fireplaces with back boilers and tiled surrounds and hearths, the execution of this work was deferred until the spring of 1961, so as to avoid inconvenience to the tenants.

12. MILK, FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

(a) MILK.

There are no milk bottling establishments within the district, all milk sold being pastuerised and bottled outside the district.

One additional milk distributor was registered during the year.

Four registered distributors were granted dealer's licences authorising the use of special designations.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 which came into operation on 1st October, 1960 transfers to the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, the responsibility for issuing dealer's licences. The Council will remain responsible for the registration of milk distributors and premises used by distributors under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

(b) ICE CREAM.

Forty premises are registered for the sale, or storage for sale, of ice cream and one for the manufacture of ice cream.

Four samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, all satisfied the methylene blue reduction test and were placed in Provisional Grade I, which indicates a satisfactory standard of bacterial cleanliness.

(c) MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES AND PRESERVED FOODS.

Five premises, all being part of butcher's premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved food.

All were inspected during the year.

(d) FOOD PREMISES.

As it was not possible to inspect all food premises within the district during the year, the following list is an estimate based on the last comprehensive survey carried out and excludes unlicensed hotels, guest houses and boarding houses.

Cafes and Restaurants	25.	Sweet and Confectionery Shops	21
General Provision Shops.	20.	Licensed Premises.	12
Licensed Club Premises.	6.	Fruit and Vegetable Shops.	6
Butcher's Shops.	5.	Bakehouses.	2
Dairies.	2.	Fishmongers.	2
Shell Fish.	1.	Fried Fish Shops.	4
Mineral Water Factory.	1.	Beer Bottling.	1

Premises are classified according to main business carried on.

Inspections of food premises made during the year:-

Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars.	33.	Food Shops.	50
Food Stalls.	3.	Food Vehicles.	3
Butcher's Shops.	7.	Hotels.	6
		Bakehouses.	8

Informal action was taken to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations in eight cases.

One bakehouse closed during the year and was being repaired and renovated to render it fit for use, works were also in hand at two restaurants at the end of the year.

(e) INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The carcases and organs of all animals alaughtered at the one private slaughterhouse in the district, together with others brought in from the adjoining district, were inspected, the following table shows the numbers inspected and the number found to be unfit for human consumption in whole or in part :-

	Cattle including cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	89	-	-	6	106
Number inspected.	89	-	-	6	106
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercus bovis.					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	9	-	-	-	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticercus bovis.	10.11%	-	-	-	10.38%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	0.94%
Cysticercus bovis.	No cases of C. bovis were found.				

In August it was found necessary to warn the occupier of the slaughterhouse against continuing to use the premises as such, he having failed to renew the slaughterhouse licence and the premises not having been made to comply with the provisions of The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. Since then no slaughtering has been carried out at the premises.

In the "Report on Slaughterhouse Facilities" made to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (in accordance with Section 3 (1) of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958) it was reported that one slaughterhouse previously used had not been licensed for over twelve months, that there were no outstanding applications for new slaughterhouse licences but that it was probable that the occupier of the former slaughterhouse may apply for a licence.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HUNSTANTON IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (i.e., inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of Inspections. (3)	Number of Written notices. (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authotity.	16	16	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises).....	5	6	-	-
Total.....	21	22	2	-

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found. Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. (S.7). (a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK.
Sections 110 and 111.

There are no outworkers in the district.